























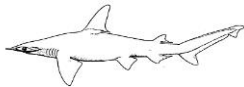
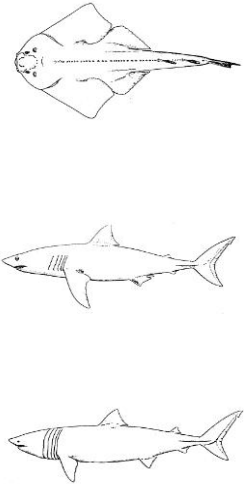
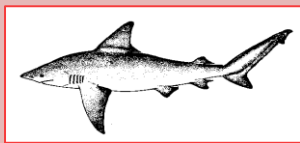
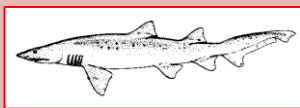
Delaware's Recreational Season, Size and Creel Limits

2015 Quick Reference

		Species	Open Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Non - tidal Waters		Largemouth bass	All year	12 inches; except 15 inches in Becks Pond	6; except 2 from Becks Pond
		Smallmouth bass	All year	None between 12 - 17 inches	6 (no more than 1 > 17 inches)
		Striped bass hybrid <i>(Only occur in Lums Pond)</i>	All year	15 inches	2
		Panfish <i>(bluegill, pumpkinseed, redear, crappie, yellow & white perch)</i>	All year	None	50 (no more than 25 of one species)
		Trout <i>(special rules apply)</i>	Opens first Saturday in April	None	6 (4 in fly-fishing only waters)
		American eel	All year	6 inches	50
Tidal Waters		American & hickory shad	Closed Nanticoke R. & its tribs.; Open all year elsewhere	None	10 in any combination
		Atlantic croaker	All year	8 inches	None
		Atlantic sturgeon	Closed - no harvest permitted		
		Black drum	All year	16"	3
		Black sea bass	May 19 - Sep. 19 Oct. 18 - Dec. 31	12.5"	15 15
		Bluefish	All year	None	10
		Catfish (any species)	All year	None	None
		Red drum	All year	20 - 27 inches may be retained	5
		River herring <i>(alewife & blueback)</i>	Closed - no harvest permitted		
		Scup	All year	8 inches	50
		Spanish mackerel	All year	14 inches	15
		Spotted seatrout	All year	12 inches	None
		Striped bass	All year	28 - 37" or 44" and greater, except only 20 - 25" fish may be retained from July 1 - Aug. 31 in DE River, DE Bay & their tribs.	2, except catch & release only on spawning grounds April 1 - May 31
		Summer flounder	All year	16"	4
		Tautog	Jan 1 - Mar 31	15"	5
			April 1 - May 11	15"	3
			July 17 - Aug. 31	15"	5
			Sept. 29 - Dec 31	15"	5
		Weakfish	All year	13 inches	1
		White perch	All year	8 inches	None
		Winter flounder	Feb. 11 - Apr. 10	12 inches	2
		Shark, tuna & billfish	Refer to back		

<i>Note: A general fishing license is now required to fish for blue crabs and clams</i>	Blue crab	Pots: Mar. 1 - Nov. 30; other gears year around	Peeler - 3 inches Soft-shell - 3.5 inches Hard-shell - 5 inches	1 bushel
	Conch (Knobbed)	All year	6" / 3.5" whorl	5 bushel
	Conch (Channeled)	All year	6" / 3.125" whorl	5 bushel
	Hard clams	All year	1.5 inches	100/resident; 50/non-resident
	Lobster	All year	3 3/8 - 5 1/4 inches	2; V-notched prohibited

2015 Sharks and Highly Migratory Species (HMS)

Sharks *- Special permit may be required for federal waters	Species	Open Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit	
		Spiny & smooth dogfish	All year	None	Boat anglers- only 1 shark of any species per vessel, except 1 additional bonnethead and 1 additional Atlantic sharpnose per angler onboard vessel. Shore anglers - only 1 shark of any species per angler, except 1 additional bonnethead and one additional Atlantic sharpnose per shore angler.
		Blacktip shark, bull shark, lemon shark, nurse shark, silky shark, spinner shark, tiger shark	Jan. 1 -May 14; July 16 - Dec. 31	54 inches FORK LENGTH	
		Great hammerhead, scalloped hammerhead, smooth hammerhead	Jan. 1 -May 14; July 16 - Dec. 31	78 inches FORK LENGTH	
		Blue shark, oceanic white-tip shark, porbeagle, shortfin mako, thresher shark	All year	54 inches FORK LENGTH	
		Atlantic sharpnose shark, blacknose shark, bonnethead, finetooth shark	All year	None	
	<u>Sandbar shark, sand tiger</u> , Atlantic angel shark, basking shark, bigeye sand tiger, bigeye sixgill shark, bigeye thresher, bignose shark, Caribbean reef shark, Caribbean sharpnose shark, dusky shark, Galapagos shark, longfin mako, narrowtooth shark, night shark, sevengill shark, sixgill shark, smalltail shark, whale shark, white shark	: SPECIES PROHIBITED		<i>The sandbar & sand tiger are toothed sharks commonly taken in the nearshore waters of the state and are prohibited. Like all prohibited species, they must be immediately released to ensure the maximum probability of survival.</i>  	
Special Restrictions for Shark It is unlawful to fillet a shark prior to landing. A shark may be eviscerated prior to landing, but head, tail and fins must remain attached to the carcass. It is unlawful to release a shark in a manner that will not ensure the sharks maximum probability of survival (i.e. no gaffs, no clubbing, careful hook removal, etc.). It is unlawful to possess the fins from any shark prior to landing unless they are naturally attached to the body of the shark.					



Atlantic tunas,
swordfish and billfish

***Special permit required** - All private vessel owners/operators recreationally fishing for and/or retaining regulated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (Atlantic tunas, sharks, swordfish and billfish) for personal use in the Atlantic Ocean must obtain an Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Angling Permit. Further limits and restrictions apply. Consult www.hmspermits.gov or call toll free (888) 872-8862 for specific information and permits.

Sandbar and sand tiger shark images adapted from Compagno, L.J.V. 1984. FAO species catalogue. Vol. 4. Sharks of the World. Parts 1 & 2 available courtesy of www.fishbase.org . Lineart of other shark species from Bigelow, H.B. and W.C. Schroeder (1953) available courtesy of www.nefsc.noaa.gov/lineart/.

